

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:39 p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Plain made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters, Vice-Chair; Mr. Matt Plain; Mr. Michael Fain; Mr. Stuart Peterson; and Dr. Yan Sun. Mr. David Osborne was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

- a. Grace Miner-EGHS-U.S. Presidential Scholar**
- b. Julian Wu-EGHS-U.S. Presidential Scholar**

Both students were recognized and congratulated on their achievement.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular and executive for May 3, 2016**

On a motion by Mr. Plain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted

6-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

The district safety team is scheduled to meet on May 26th at 4:00 p.m. at central office. One school committee member is needed for the team. A mental health forum will take place at Cole on May 24th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. End of year ceremonies will be posted on the district website. Members were asked to notify Dr. Mercurio if they wish to attend.

Commissioner Wagner presented on May 19th at the Providence Career/Tech Academy. He discussed statewide strategic planning and held a question/answer period. The preschool team pursued a Bright Star Rating and has recently been recognized as moving from a tier "2" to a "3."

VII. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Peterson asked for additional bio information on the two U.S. Presidential Scholars.

VIII. Action Items

a. Retirement-Michael Wood, Technology Teacher, Cole

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to accept the retirement.

b. District Homework Study Committee Charge

Dr. Mercurio reviewed the Charge and said the Committee had asked for an ad hoc group to study how homework is assigned in K-12. It was noted parental input would be

provided via forum/feedback. On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted 5-1 to approve the Charge as is. Mr. Plain voted no. The survey will move forward in early fall.

c. Second Read/Possible Adoption of Policy

1. #2720 Video Cameras on Buses

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Dr. Sun, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the policy.

d. School Committee Resolution: Student Transportation Legislation Revisions

On a motion by Mr. Plain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Policy Committee

Policies #2196 and #8145 were discussed at the last meeting on May 9, 2016.

X. Policy: First Read of New or Revised Policies

a. #2196 Field Trips

Mr. Plain reviewed the suggested revisions. A release/waiver will

need to be drafted. The policy will go for a second read/possible adoption at the June 7th meeting.

b. #8145 Middle School and High School Academic Awards

Ms. Mark read the notes provided by Mr. Osborne. There were questions regarding whether the honor society criteria is posted on the website. Mrs. Meyer said it is on the website and in the Cole handbook. Mr. Podraza said the information is in the EGHS handbook and under a separate tab on Mr. Lennox's website.

c. #2725 Advertising and Acknowledgements of Donations (new policy)

Due to Mr. Osborne's absence, this item was tabled.

XI. Discussion

a. The Trust OPEB Funding Program-Colleen Bodziony

Colleen Bodziony, Kate Ganney, and Maureen Tool were present to discuss the OPEB Funding Program. The program does not have a start up cost and funds are pooled with other schools/cities/towns. There is no exit fee, but a thirty-day notice is required. Ms. Bodziony discussed the difference between a stand-alone account and a sub-account. Barrington, Lincoln, and Jamestown School Districts are sub accounts. The Town of East Greenwich has been a member for a year.

b. FY2017 budget

Dr. Mercurio discussed the increasing enrollment in kindergarten for FY2017. There is a need to add one additional teacher (Step 1 Masters) and paraprofessional for FY2017. With the allocation change in Title I, the district will receive an additional \$100,000. A

rate adjustment with Blue Cross/Blue Shield will provide \$71,000 in savings. The postings for the additional teacher and paraprofessional will be posted as “anticipated.”

c. School Start Time Update

There are still some outliers that have a thirty-eight minute ride. A list of tentative stops should be available in June. Information will be sent out to the community prior to the close of school.

d. Teaching and Learning: PARCC

Principals’ and department chairs have been reviewing scores to see where there are disconnects between class work and PARCC. The opt-out rate was similar to last year.

Testing fatigue did not seem to be as high as last year.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Peterson, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted

6-0 to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY